

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

M-03 A-01 OPR-02 RSR-01 /121 W

----- 061814

O P 131224 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1511

INFO USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 525

S E C R E T TUNIS 2053

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD, CAIRO

ALGIERS FOR ASST SECY NEWSOM

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TS, US

SUBJECT: CHARGES OF U. S. COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID IN LEBANON

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REF S: A. STATE 068250 B. TUNIS 2034 (NOTAL)

1. TUNISIAN PRESS HAS NOT RPT NOT PLAYED UP CHARGES OF U. S. COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI TERRORIST ATTACK IN BEIRUT. AS WE REPORTED REF B, PRESS ON APRIL 12 IN ALMOST ALL CASES BALANCED LOW- KEY NEWS TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN CHARGES WITH EQUAL TREATMENT USG DENIALS. CHARGES NOT REPEATED APRIL 13, BUT PRESS DOES CARRY REPORTS OF USG PROTEST TO GOA RE " VOICE OF PALESTINE" BROADCAST IN ALGIERS. AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE MONITOR RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS, SAME TREATMENT IS EVIDENT. THERE IS NO " VOICE OF PALESTINE" BROADCAST HERE.
2. THERE EXISTS, TO BE SURE, DEEP FEELING OF GENUINE OUTRAGE AT ISRAELI ACTION. LEAD EDITORIAL IN LA PRESSE OF APRIL 12, FOR EXAMPLE, COMPARES BEIRUT INCIDENT WITH TERRORISM OF IRGUN AND STERN GANG, AND EVEN WITH ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY NAZI GERMANY. EDITORIAL DEPLORES FACT THAT WORLD ACCEPTS THIS, AND THAT GREAT POWERS ARE SILENT. BUT THERE NO MENTION OF ANY U. S. COMPLICITY.
3. AS WE REPORTED REF B, GOT OBVIOUSLY FEARED SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATIONS IN TUNIS ON APRIL 12 DIRECTED AGAINST U. S. EMBASSY AND USIS. THESE DID NOT TAKE PLACE, THOUGH WE ARE ON ALERT APRIL 13 FOR DEMONSTRATIONS TODAY. IN SPEECH APRIL 12, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA EXPRESSED HIS GENUINE OUTRAGE AT BEIRUT INCIDENT, AND CALLED UPON TUNISIANS TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS BY PRAYERS IN ALL TUNISIAN MOSQUES ON FRIDAY, APRIL 13.
4. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I INTEND, SUBJECT DEPARTMENT APPROVAL, TO TAKE FOLLOWING LINE IN MAKING DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REF A :
 - A. I WILL PREFACE DEMARCHE BY STATING THAT USG DEPLORES ISRAELI ATTACK IN BEIRUT RESULTING IN LOSS OF LIFE, JUST AS IT DEPLORES ALL TERRORIST ATTACKS INCLUDING THOSE BY PALESTINIANS.
 - B. I WILL THEN NOTE THAT IN CERTAIN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS NEWS MEDIA HAVE MADE SPURIOUS CHARGES OF U. S. COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI TERRORIST ATTACK, WITH PARTICULARLY NASTY INCITATIONS AGAINST
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USG AND AMERICAN CITIZENS. I WILL EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO

GOT THAT THESE CHARGES AND INCITATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN REPEATED IN TUNISIA. WE CONSIDER THAT SUCH INCITATIONS TO MURDER OR TO ATTACK ON AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROPERTY ARE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE, AND WE CONSIDER THEM OUTRAGEOUS.

C. SINCE NO SUCH STATMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY TUNISIAN MEDIA, HOWEVER, I WOULD NOT PLAN TO INDICATE EFFECT OF SUCH STATEMENTS ON U. S.- TUNISIAN RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT FORTHRIGHT PUBLIC U. S. STATEMENT SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNING ISRAELI TERRORIST ATTACK, AS WELL AS CYPRUS TERRORIST ACTS, WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OVERCOMING FALSE IMPRESSION IN THIS AREA THAT WHEN U. S. CONDEMNS TERRORISM WE DO SO ESSENTIALLY IN CONTEXT OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISM.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD AND CAIRO.

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